

Claims 2 and 3 are cancelled, thus the rejection of those claims is moot. The rejection of claims 1 and 4-8 is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the personal interview, claims 1 and 5 are amended in reply to the rejection. The Office Action further alleges that the recitation "made of a continuous wire" appears to contradict the fact that there are connecting portions ... connecting ... the phase windings in the same phase. As discussed, and agreed during the personal interview, each phase winding (phase winding X_A and phase winding X_B) is made of a continuous wire, the continuous wire having a start end 3120 and a finish end 3121. Therefore, the recitation of the phase windings being made of a continuous wire providing an individual coil and a stator core is not contradictory.

The subject matter recited in claims 2 and 3, incorporated into independent claim 1, is amended in reply to the rejection.

Specific language forming the basis of the rejection of claims 4 and 6-8 is not provided. Thus, Applicant asserts that claims 4 and 6-8 are allowable for their dependency on independent claim 1. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, be withdrawn.

A claim for priority under JP 2000-127226 was filed on April 27, 2001. A certified copy of the priority document was also filed on April 27, 2001. A verified English-language translation of the priority document is submitted concurrently herewith which includes the statement that the translation is accurate, in compliance with MPEP §201.13.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3, 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)/(e) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,211,594 to Umeda et al. (the '594 patent). As claims 2 and 3 are canceled, the rejection of those claims is moot. Applicant traverses the rejection of claims 1, 5 and 8.

As the filing date of the priority document is prior to the publication date of the '594 patent, the '594 patent is unavailable as prior art. Thus, Applicant request the rejection of claims 1-3, 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) be withdrawn.

As discussed during the personal interview, the '594 patent does not disclose each and every feature recited in amended claim 1. For example, the '594 patent does not disclose a stator of a rotor electric machine wherein the turn portions are formed so that the straight portions disposed radially adjacent in the same slot are connected to turn portions extending in the opposite directions, as recited in claim 1 (see Fig. 2 of the instant application).

In contrast, the '594 patent discloses straight portions 231a, 232a, 231b, 232b connected to turn portions 231c, 232c extending in the same direction (see, for example, Fig. 3 of the '594 patent). Thus, the '594 patent does not disclose each and every feature recited in claims 1, 5 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 1-3, 5 and 8 be withdrawn.

Claims 1-3 and 7 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,691,590 to Kawai et al. (Kawai) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,137,201 to Umeda et al. (the '201 patent). As claims 2 and 3 are canceled, the rejection of those claims is moot. Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection of claims 1 and 7.

As discussed during the personal interview, neither Kawai nor the '201 patent, whether considered alone or in combination, disclose or suggest all of the features recited in claims 1 and 7. For example, neither Kawai nor the '201 patent disclose or suggest a stator of a rotary electric machine wherein the turn portions are formed so that the straight portions disposed radially adjacent in the same slot are connected to turn portions extending in opposite directions.

Although Kawai shows connecting portions provided outside of the stator core in Fig. 1, Kawai does not disclose or suggest that the phase windings include a straight portion

disposed radially adjacent in the same slot connected to turn portions extending in opposite directions.

The '201 patent discloses an AC generator capable of preventing stoppage of the generator due to a short circuit within a stator slot caused by water splashing from outside (col. 2, lines 59-67). The '201 patent is silent regarding the direction from which the turn portions extend. Thus, the '201 patent does not disclose or suggest turn portions formed so that the straight portions disposed radially adjacent in the same slot are connected to turn portions extending in opposite directions. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claims 1-3 and 7 be withdrawn.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over the '594 patent in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,955,810 to Umeda et al. (the '810 patent). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

As discussed during the personal interview, claim 6 is allowable for at least its dependency on independent claim 1 for the reasons discussed above. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the rejection of claim 6 be withdrawn.

Regarding the rejection of claims 1-3, 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a), Applicant submits that U.S. Patent No. 6,137,201 and U.S. Patent No. 5,955,810 were, at the time the invention was made, commonly owned by the Assignee of the instant application.

In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application is requested. It is submitted that the claims as presented herein patentably distinguish over the applied references and fully meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112. Accordingly, allowance of claims 1, 4-8 and 20 is respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,


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JAO:JWF/ldg

Attachments:

Appendix
Translation Certificate
English-language version of JP 2000-127226

Date: January 17, 2003

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APPENDIX

Changes to Claims:

Claims 2, 3 and 9-19 are canceled.

Claim 20 is added.

The following is a marked-up version of the amended claims 1, 4 and 5:

1. (Amended) A stator of a rotary electric machine, comprising:

a stator core having a plurality of slots;

a poly-phase winding disposed in the slots comprising a plurality of sub-winding sets, each sub-winding set comprising a plurality of phase windings including a plurality of straight portions disposed in the slots and a plurality of turn portions connecting ~~between~~ the straight portions, the phase windings being made of a continuous wire providing an individual coil on the stator core; and

connecting portions provided on an outside of the stator core connecting between the phase windings in the same phase, wherein each of the turn portions connects a pair of straight portions that are disposed in the slots spaced apart by a predetermined magnetic pole pitch and each straight portion is disposed in an adjacent position in its corresponding slot, and the turn portions are formed so that the straight portions disposed radially adjacent in the same slot are connected to turn portions extending in opposite directions.

4. (Amended) The stator of the rotary electric machine according to claim 31, wherein the turn portion has a center portion twisted in a radial direction to provide a radial step and a pair of half portions shifted a predetermined radial distance at the center portion, and wherein the half portion of the one of the phase windings located on a radial inner layer crosses the half portion of the other one of the phase windings located on a radial outer layer.

5. (Amended) The stator of the rotary electric machine according to claim 1, wherein ~~the each~~ phase winding is ~~made of a continuous wire from a start end to a finish end~~ wound around the stator core and includes a start end and a finish end.